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THE PLUMED HYDRANGEA IN MASS.

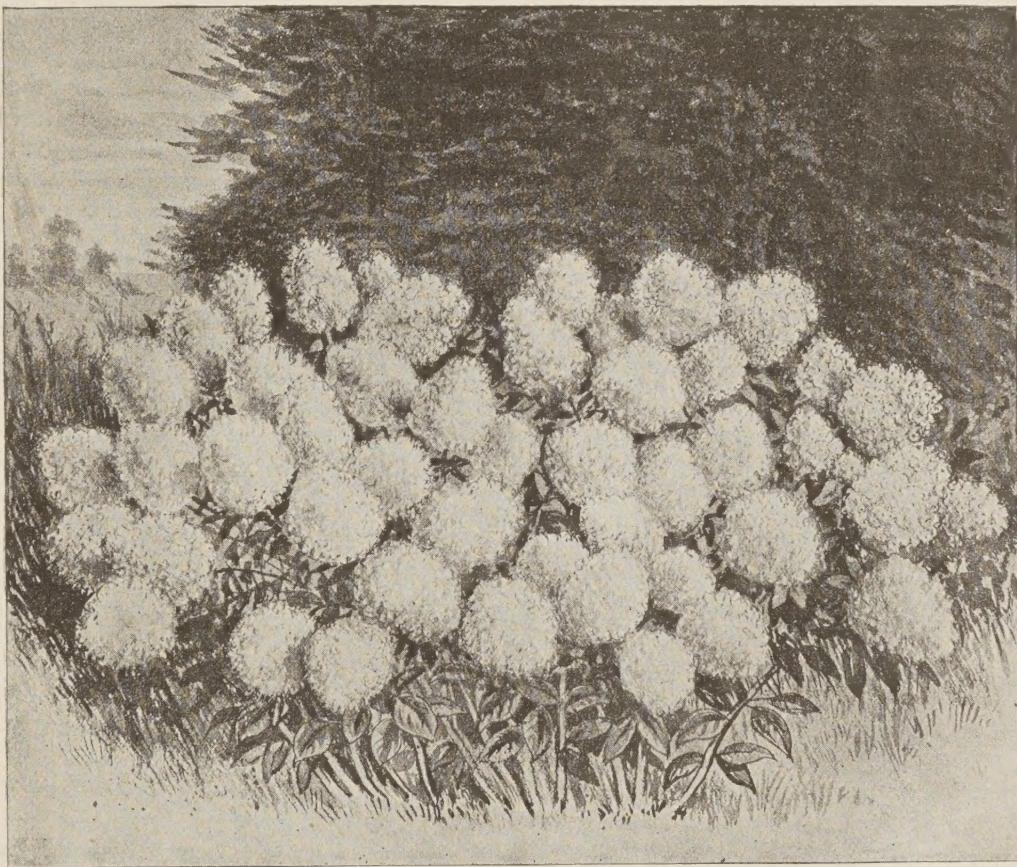
FEW of us yet have learned how great was the gain for our gardens when the large-flowered form of the hardy panicled hydrangea, *H. paniculata grandiflora*, reached our shores from its Japanese island home. By the use of this plant there is at command a means to brighten garden grounds and lawns, easily and permanently, in late summer and early autumn,—a season when the lack of blooming shrubs is most seriously felt. The hardiness and vigor of this plant enable it to withstand great severities of climate and great neglect of attention. If once planted in fair soil it sturdily pushes a growth which ensures its future endurance and usefulness. Its profusion of bloom and the great size of its panicles make it an extremely showy object. Even small plants will bloom the first year of their planting, and every annual increase of size also adds to the amount of bloom. The plumed hydrangea makes a very good single specimen and can be trained in bush

form, or as a standard in the form of a small tree with about three feet of stem and a large, broad head. It is thus, in one or the other of these forms, and as a single specimen on the lawn, that it is most frequently seen.

Where there is a border of shrubbery this plant should be used in sufficient numbers to make a strong feature, for at its season of bloom, in northern regions, there will be little else of shrub kind to share the attention of its admirers; instead of placing a single plant of it in the shrub border, set all together in one group, three or four, or more, according

to the size of the place. The althea, in those portions of the north where it is sufficiently hardy, covers a part of the same period of bloom, though the bloom of the hydrangea is much more lasting than that of the althea.

When the Flowering Pea Bush shall become common in our grounds it, also, will display its flowers at the same time. But neither the althea nor the desmodium, handsome and attractive as they are, can enliven with their presence the garden scene as can the plumed hydrangea with its great trusses of white flowers



A BED OR MASS OF THE PLUMED HYDRANGEA.

becoming pinkish later in the season.

But the most effective manner of employing this plant, where circumstances will permit it, is in large masses or beds with a background of heavy foliage, and especially of evergreens. This mode of planting is well shown in the illustration on this page. The dark green of the evergreen trees and a space of green lawn in front form a setting for the mass of white, making a display the prominent effect of which is grandeur or magnificence,—the result of the breadth of these masses of color and their contrast, and yet their perfect harmony.

OUR WINTER BIRDS.

OUR winter visitors have not been as abundant as one year ago, but they have helped to brighten the cold months with a good deal of out-door life and occasionally a song. Robins have shown themselves where the evergreens gave them abundant shelter. The Brown Creeper has worked with industry cleaning our shrubberies and orchards, while Woodpeckers have come close about the house, peeping into the windows and winking familiarly at us.

I have looked for another visit from the

Pine Grosbeak, a superb bird, quite as beautiful as the red-breasted Grosbeak that comes in May. This charming bird eats the berries of the high bush cranberry, and has the habit, rare with all birds, of picking fallen berries from the ground. I have seen twenty or thirty of them hopping around on the snow, like crimson flames against the white. The Song Sparrow comes occasionally, and you will hear him whistling a few notes on warmish days behind the hedges.

The royal Blue Jay comes and goes as he will; his beauty makes him welcome,—but his pugnacity does not make him as welcome as other birds. He can sing finely, but has a habit of tossing out his notes carelessly. With him frequently appears the Red Poll or red head.

It is possible, I think, to encourage winter visitors, and make their visits fairly continuous through the cold season. They are all fond of the seeds of the high bush cranberry and the mountain ash. It would be well if in our shrubberies these small trees appeared more frequently. The mountain ash is

large enough to make a fairly good roadside tree. I think that not less than fifty flocks of birds of passage have dropped down for a meal or two on a single tree before my window.

Then again, besides food, our birds must be tempted with adequate shelter. For our own sake, as well as for the birds, we should have more evergreen windbreaks, as well as evergreen groups among our deciduous trees and along the roadside. The pine, besides shelter, furnishes seeds that are relished by the Grosbeaks. Crows are generally reputed

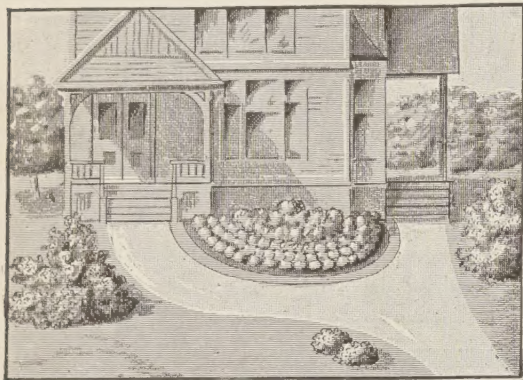
his food is mostly small vermin or useless waste. He is our grand winter scavenger.

As I write the birds of passage are once more on the wing. The advance couriers of the robins are whistling down the glen. The winter birds are far to the north. The last berries are gleaned from the ash and cranberry. Even the sour barberries have been thinned by a late flock, that could find nothing else with which to satisfy their hunger. They have left nothing but the astringent berries of the buckthorn. We are ready for spring.

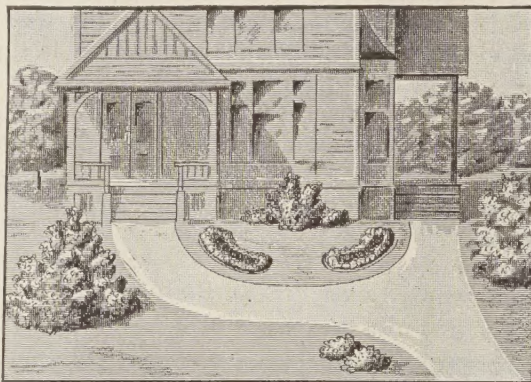
E. P. POWELL.

there are three smaller flower beds so located as to be delightfully relieved by lawn. Summed up in a word, the fault here referred to, and present in the left-hand instance, is the lack of proper freedom and relief. Another, and perhaps better way of stating it is to say that the left-hand plat lacks that delightful garden quality which we call "repose"; the other one possesses it.

Now, as intimated, this lack of garden repose is a very common fault in ornamental arrangements. Planters fall into it through not properly observing a simple principle in garden effect, viz: To distinguish between what may be termed major and minor features of embellishment in garden materials and to use accordingly. For example, you might plant a lawn of one acre in front of your home, entirely to flowers, and the appearance to the eye would not be at all satisfactory. Devote the same area to a well kept lawn, and the effect would be much better than that of the other. Now, then, have two-thirds of the same front area



A flower-planted plat in which repose is lacking.



The same plat planted with reposeful effect.

to be migrants, going south every winter, but in this section, where the forests afford shelter, and the apple orchards a good deal of gleanings, they remain all winter. It is a rare day when huge flocks of crows do not go over us just before sunrise to their feeding grounds to the south; and about sunset in straggling crowds they move north again to their roosting homes. It is a curious part of the domestic economy of these fellows to have two residences; one for the day, where they build their nests, and eat their meals; and another where they sleep. The hawks have found this out, and take advantage of the habit by infesting the nesting trees before daybreak, when most of the crows are absent. The result is that many a nest is broken up and the young crows devoured. The battle between these families of the air is perpetual, most of the smaller birds, in the case of a pitched battle, side with the crow. They do not deserve this favor; for I have often seen them picking out of robins' nests half grown birds, which they devoured as delicate morsels. Casting a balance with this curious, wise and impudent bird we shall have to decide in his favor. His caw enlivens the dreary days of winter, while

FLOWER-BEDS ON THE LAWN.

NOT a season passes but one may meet many cases of lawn effects that are marred by a certain overdoing of the floral adornments thereof. The planters' love for flowers and their eagerness to make the most of the beauty of these, are things that cannot be recommended too highly. Where the trouble comes in is that, through disregard of certain principles of effective lawn arrangement, the flowers do not receive the justice in the way of effect that is their due, and the general result is far from what was sought in the planting.

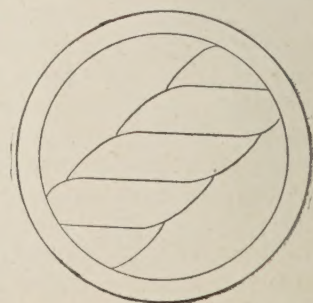
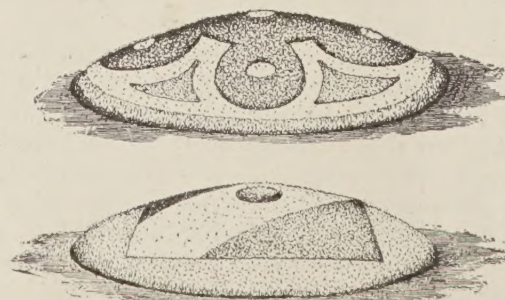
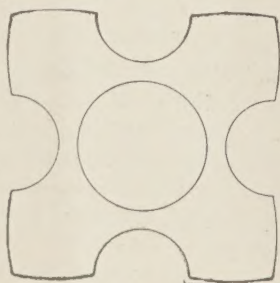
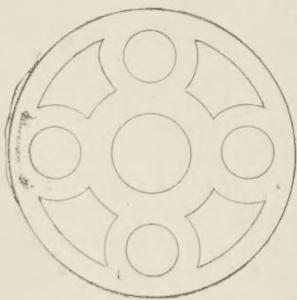
In order to understand this matter, let us take the case of a lawn plat adorned in two ways with flowers, as shown in the engravings. The plat chosen is the most conspicuous one about the home,—a spot that in every case one would desire to have appear to the best possible advantage. As the tasteful housefurnisher puts the best curtains to the front windows, so in gardening it is desired to have the front lawn plat appear at its very finest.

In the illustrations it is seen that in the one at the left, the space, excepting a narrow grass margin, is filled solidly with plants. In the other and better instance,

in sward, and one-third of the space in flowers, shrubs, trees, etc., and if the latter are arranged with any regard to good taste, the effect will be a great improvement over either of the other cases cited.

Why is this so? Because grass or lawn is a material of major quality in adornment; it may be used to almost any extent without producing an unpleasant effect. Flowers, trees, etc., are materials of minor or subordinate quality; hence to press them to a major place in a scene is to use them not to the best advantage. Combine the two classes of material in proper proportion and the opportunity is yours to create the most ornate effect possible.

In the case illustrated, therefore, the flowers of the left-hand plat were pushed to a major place; in the right-hand plat they occupy a minor position, subordinate to the lawn, and the gain for fine appearance is obvious. To further impress this lesson, suppose the half-round flower bed which, in the left-hand view fills out the plat, was placed next to the fence on the further side of the yard, and here was partially surrounded by an ample lawn. In that case the effect of the same bed would be excellent, for it would be subor-



EASILY PLANNED LAWN BEDS.

dinate to the major material, or grass, the space of which latter would impart the needed repose and freedom.

It is seen, therefore, that no protest is made against the free use of flowers, but the desire is rather to teach this: Place your larger flower beds on those parts of the lawn where they will be well supported by ample surrounding grass; and in adorning the smaller grass plats near the house, make the beds of a size that will leave three times, or upwards, as much space in grass as that occupied by the flowers.

This principle of having the brighter colors as found in flowers, subordinate to green that is less gaudy, is illustrated in other ways. Take a rosebush, and how needful is the foliage to properly offset the brilliancy of the bloom. We may admire the double flowering plum that shows only bloom and no foliage in the spring, but, after all, it is not so reposeful in effect; it does not satisfy the eye as do the roses that come later, surrounded by masses of handsome leaves.

Another principle of equal importance with the proper proportion of flowers and lawn in producing repose, is that of openness of center in grass plats. There can be no grand landscape effect without an open lawn effect, which indeed may be considered the keynote of beautiful landscapes, whether natural or made by planting. It is seldom the case that any grassy area, however small, will appear as well with the center occupied with flowers, shrubs, or other adornments, as if the same is kept clear of aught else but lawn.

This is made apparent by the treatment of the front plat in the engraving at the right.

In adorning the lawn with flowers, the beauty of formal beds may be enhanced by employing tasteful designs, as well as those that can be easily laid out. In the latter respect there is much difference in what may be classed as patterns pleasing to the eye. If such are chosen as can be scribed out by the use of a straight-edge board, and in addition the garden reel and stake, that is a good start. Some

effective designs that are yet most simple for transferring to the garden, are shown herewith. To those who have had little experience in this kind of adornment we would say you will make no mistake by confining yourselves to the more simple ones as a beginning.

* *

A NEW CLIMBING POLYGONUM.

THE Smartweed tribe appears to be coming to the front these recent years. Sacaline, about which so much was said two or three years since as a

erred in 1882 by M. Regel, fils. At first known as *Atrophaxis* sp. nova, it received its present name and was described and figured by Ed. Regel in 1883. It is an herbaceous species; the stem, woody at the base, is robust, and attains a height of thirteen to sixteen feet. The leaves are a beautiful green, cordiform or hastate, the flowers white, faintly rosy, forming long, handsome trusses; they are succeeded by winged fruits, white at first, then red, and themselves decorative. The plant seems hardy in Paris, for if the stems die in winter, fresh shoots are sent up in the spring.

The *Gardeners' Chronicle* gives a further account of it from information obtained from M. Lemoine, of Nancy, France, who has been cultivating the plant for two years and states that he is well satisfied with it.

In two months a medium sized plant grew ten or thirteen feet high; the stems are twining, attaching themselves to any handy support; flowering commences in June and lasts until September. All the ramifications of the stem form close panicles, sometimes erect, sometimes horizontal, sometimes recumbent; they give an appearance as of wreaths supported on a trellis formed by the plant. M. Lemoine set the plant at the foot of a dead elm tree; it soon reached the lower branches, covering them all summer with a multitude of white flowers, very beautiful and effective. The flowers are very useful for cutting, and the plant itself is hardy.

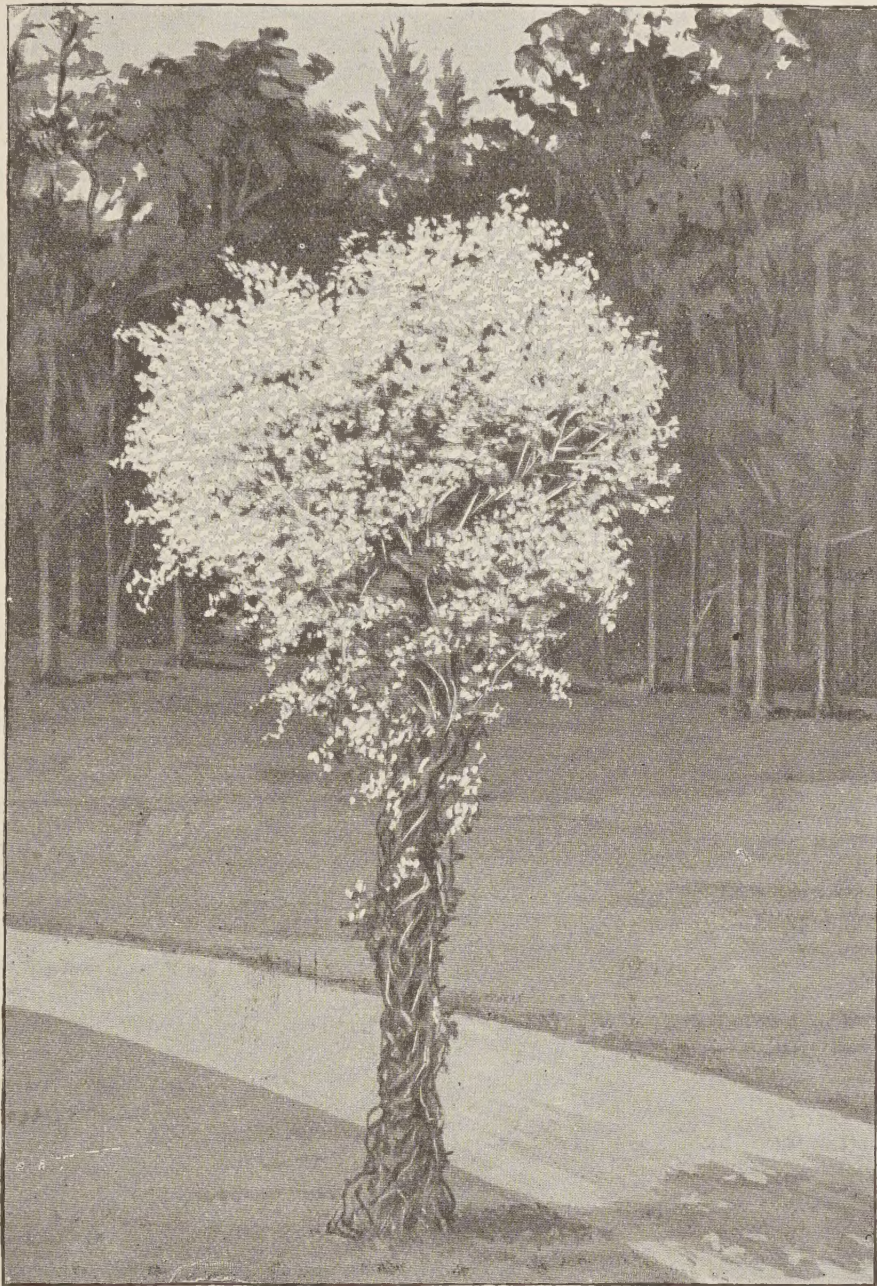
Such is the account given of it, and coming as it does from a cool locality it will no doubt prove hardy in this country. From the appearance in the illustration it will probably be more effective as a post or pillar climber on the lawn than trained flat on trellis; its flowers growing in a mass or head appearing better than if spread out thinly over

considerable surface.

* *

ROSE CAROLINE MARNIESSE.

Next to Clothilde Soupert, says *Gardening*, the old rose Caroline Marniesse was the best all summer bloomer in the garden. Even in the hottest weather it produced its double white fair-sized flowers that remained either on the bush or when cut in good condition a long time. It is one of those old roses that seemed set aside to make room for the newer productions, having been introduced in 1848. It is a Noisette, rather dwarf and quite hardy. It should be grown more extensively as a garden rose.



POLYGONUM BALDSCHUANICUM.

fodder plant, and which is yet under test for this purpose, is a polygonum, *P. sachalinense*. Now we introduce to our readers, by description and illustration, another species promising to be valuable as an ornamental, climbing, flowering plant. In 1894 the French National Society of Horticulture gave this plant a First Class Award, and the following description of it was then published:

Polygonum Baldschuanicum grows wild in Turkestan (eastern Bokara), at an altitude of 3,900 to 5,525 feet, and where it was discov-

THE RIDDLE OF THE ERYTHRONIUMS.

POSSIBLY none of our native plants are more interesting than the erythroniums,—the “dog’s-tooth violets” or “adder’s tongues,” as they are popularly called. Certainly none are more beautiful. Coming as they do among the very



ERYTHRONIUM ALBIDUM (half natural size).
a—Flowering corm.
b—One-leaved corm showing runners.

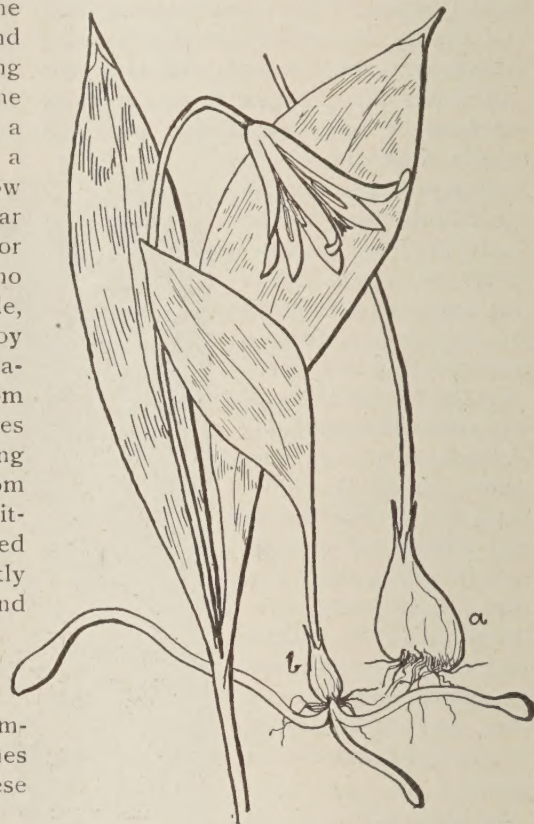
first flowers of the spring, they are well known favorites of every lover of the outdoor world. After winter’s long confinement, both plant and woodland stroller seem eager to greet each other.

But there is a riddle connected with the erythroniums. East of the Rocky Mountains are three species: *Erythronium Americanum*, the yellow adder’s-tongue, more common along the Appalachian slopes; *E. albidum*, the dog’s-tooth violet of the Mississippi valley; and *E. mesochoreum** of the Missouri valley. The first two species have richly mottled leaves, while the last has more slender unmottled leaves, with some tendency to coil and twist like tulip leaves. The first two species are the more persistent propounders of the riddle. Every spring their thousands of tongues seem to query, “Why are so many myriads of us born to raise but a single leaf above the soil with never a bloom, while only a few chosen ones here and there are allotted the honor and glory of bloom and fruitage?”

That we may place ourselves in a fair way to find an answer to this question, let us briefly investigate the habits of these two species, and compare them with the third species growing in the valley of the Missouri river. Both the yellow adder’s-tongue and the white dog’s-tooth violet grow in rich, loose soil, either

in the shaded ravines of the woods or in moist meadows. Both produce two kinds of plants,—a two-leaved form bearing a flower, and a one-leaved form without flowers. Why do not the single-leaved forms bear flowers? A very few may be seedlings, but the great majority are not. A specimen of the one-leaved form of *E. Americanum* carefully removed from the loose soil in which it grows, will be found to have three or more runners shooting out from its withering corm, and at the end of each runner may be discovered a slight enlargement destined to make a corm for the next season. Where now we find but one plant growing, next year near by we may expect to find three or more to represent it,—provided that no accident in the form of a hungry mole, grub or worm has intervened to destroy one or more of them. *E. albidum* invariably produces two such offshoots from the one-leaved corms. In both species the progeny corms are placed at varying distances of from three to ten inches from the position of the parent leaf, and at little depth in the rich leaf-mold. Indeed the runners of *E. Americanum* frequently rise above the surface before they bend gracefully over to plant their little terminal corms in new forage ground.

Because of this multiplication in number whole hillslopes in wooded ravines will soon become matted with these



ERYTHRONIUM AMERICANUM (half natural size).
a—Corm of flowering plant.
b—Corm of one-leaved plant, showing runners.

two-leaved and flower-producing? What a glorious sight it would be if those old ravines we all know of, so densely carpeted with millions of mottled tongues could just for once become ablaze with bloom, each leaf doubling and swinging from its midst its bell of white or gold! What would we not give to be there at such a time!

Well, that very thing occurs every spring-time among the sunny slopes of the Missouri valley, and is the habit of the third species which we have mentioned. With *Erythronium mesochoreum* almost every plant is two-leaved and flower-producing. The one-leaved forms are rare and are evidently seedlings, of only one or two years standing.

As we found an answer to the first part of the riddle by digging up the one-leaved forms, let us do likewise with the flowering corms of *E. albidum* and *E. Americanum*. When we attempt to remove these we will find the task more difficult than was our experience with the flowerless plants, for the corms are much deeper and a mattock or spade will be advisable. The corms for the most part will be found without runners, though sometimes, especially where the soil has become loose, runners may be developed in both those species. Where such runners are found the corms will not flower the next season;



ERYTHRONIUM MESOCHOREUM (half natural size).
a—Flowering corm
b—One-leaved flowerless corm, no runners.

beautifully mottled, elliptical leaves. But numbers are gained at the expense of vitality and nourishment for individual

* See Britton & Brown’s “Illustrated Flora,” Vol. I., page 421.

and herein we may find the explanation for the failure to get flowering forms to continue blooming the second year after transplanting to a garden. Instead of at the end of runners, we find the new corm for next season's growth, in a flowering specimen, but slightly removed from the position of the old corm, indeed scarcely breaking its coat. An explanation for this difference in the propagation of the corms of the flowerless and the flowering specimens may be found in the fact that the corms of the latter are placed so deep in the ground that the resistance of the soil prevents the development of off-shoots. Thus all the vitality is conserved in one corm, and so long as this is maintained it may continue flowering, season after season. Let some accident, such as a freshet, occur to bury a one-leaved corm to considerable depth, covering it with firm soil, and thus preventing its branching, and in a few seasons it will have stored sufficient vitality to produce two leaves and a flower. In evidence, we always find the greater number of flowering plants in the lowest parts of the ravines, where the soil accumulates most readily.

What is here an accidental condition with the white and the yellow species, is the normal condition with *E. mesochoreum*, for its habitat is out on the open hills where it must compete with the grasses and other sun-loving plants.

From the very seedling its growth is in compact earth; and a branching of the corm has been prevented for so many generations that the corm without runners has become a fixed feature of the species. However, if the corm of a flowering specimen be examined it will be found to partake more of the structure of a bulb, being made up of a succession of corms within corms, to the number of three, four or five. Sometimes it happens that several of these corms within the same coat may come to flowering at once, each sending up a pair of leaves and a flower. Such a cluster is indeed a beautiful sight, and when it appears is a distinguishing feature which never accompanies the other species mentioned.

Inasmuch as the corms of seedlings of *E. mesochoreum* never branch, growing as they do in firm soil, they must soon come to flowering, and it is for this reason that flowerless specimens of this species are very unusual. Thus by a comparative study of the habits of these three species do we find a solution to the riddle of the erythroniums.

Atchison, Kas.

E. B. KNERR.

ORNAMENTAL ASPARAGUS.

THE different kinds of asparagus cultivated for their delicate and graceful foliage are deservedly popular ornamental plants, adding very much to the furnishing of the greenhouse and conservatory, and by many they are successfully cultivated as window plants. Their foliage is highly effective in bouquets and floral decorations. The principal kinds to which attention has been given for

stems, which renders it particularly appropriate for bouquet making and for use among vase flowers. It is characterized, also, by its charming mode of growth which allows the stems to be trained as one may fancy; the illustration shows a form of training.

Asparagus plants are best suited with a light, rich soil,—one composed of equal parts of loam, leaf-mold, rotted manure and sand is proper. A lightly shaded place is best for them, and a moist soil.

The plants may be increased by division of the roots.

THE STRAWBERRY WEEVIL.

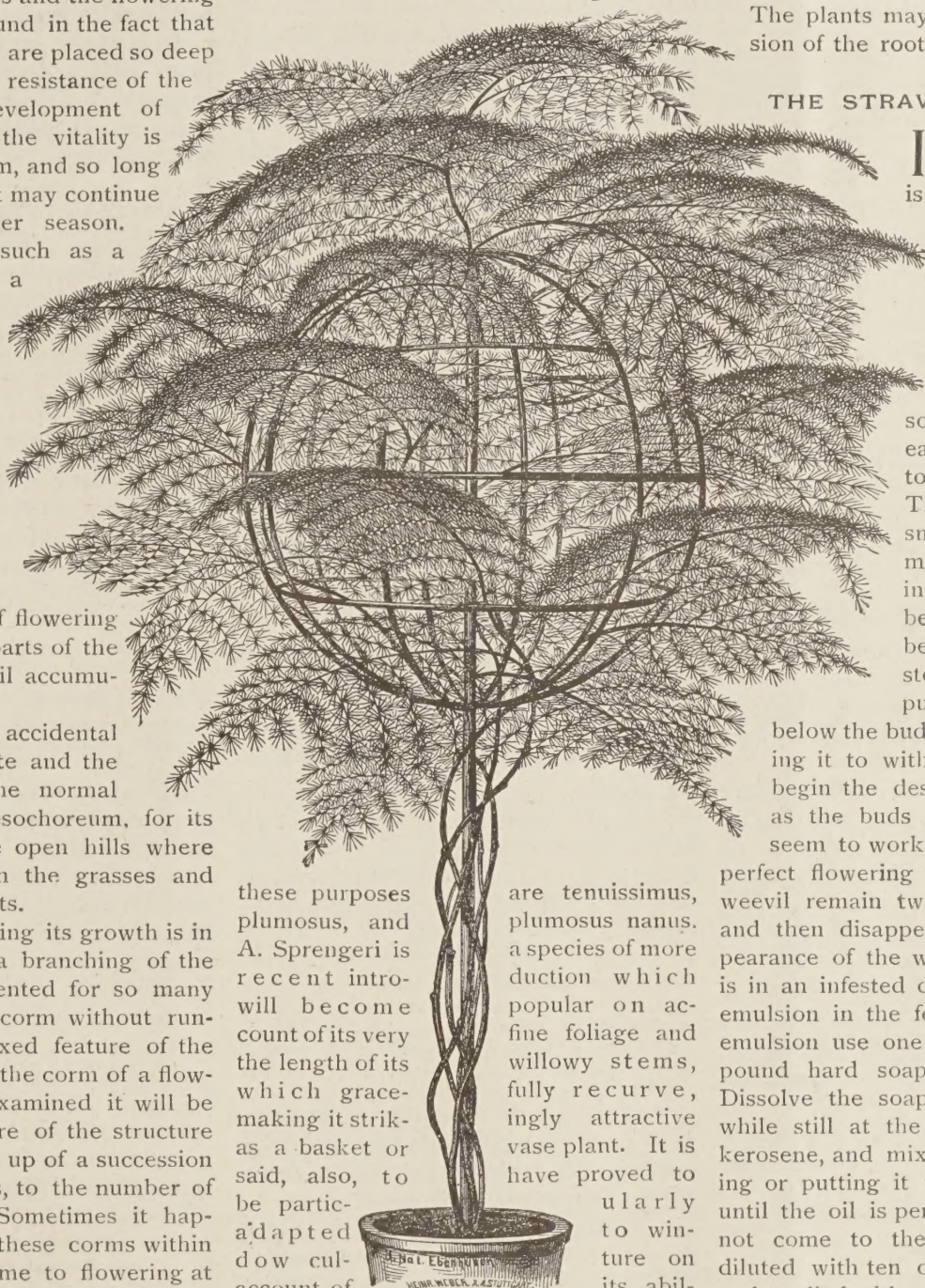
IN some sections of the country this little pest is doing a great deal of damage. It is not a hard enemy to conquer when one knows the remedies to use, but it must not be treated like weevil on plums, as the fruit is so soft and ripens so early that it is not safe to use arsenical poisons. The weevil is a very small black beetle, not more than a tenth of an inch in length, and can be found in great numbers on the blossom stems of the plants; they puncture the stems just

below the bud or blossom, thus causing it to wither and fall off. They begin the destructive work as soon as the buds appear in spring and seem to work almost entirely on the

perfect flowering varieties. Usually the weevil remain two seasons in a place and then disappear. At the first appearance of the weevil, or before, if one is in an infested district, apply kerosene emulsion in the following way: For the emulsion use one gallon of kerosene, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound hard soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of water. Dissolve the soap in boiling water, and while still at the boiling point, add the kerosene, and mix by thoroughly churning or putting it through a force pump until the oil is perfectly mixed and does not come to the top. This must be diluted with ten or twelve parts water, and applied with a force pump or sprayer. It will have to be done several times, but will prove a complete cure.

The hellebore mixture used for currant worms will also prove efficacious for these insects. A mixture of one ounce of white hellebore in three gallons of water will be the right strength for this use. Glue is often added to cause the liquid to remain on the foliage longer, one ounce being allowed for each ounce of hellebore. The hellebore mixture being so easy to prepare, is oftener used, but either remedy will prove a sure cure.

BERNICE BAKER.



these purposes plumosus, and *A. Sprengeri* is recent introduction which will become count of its very the length of its which grace-making it striking as a basket or said, also, to be particularly adapted for window culture on account of its ability to sustain the effects of a dry atmosphere.

We now present to our readers the description and illustration of a still later introduction. This is *Asparagus Comorensis*, evidently from one of the Comoro islands. The following description is taken from *La Semaine Horticole*:

This new introduction is a precious acquisition for greenhouses, winter gardens and especially for room culture. Its foliage resembles a finely feathered plume, of a soft emerald color, surpassing in elegance the finest fern fronds. This species, more than most other kinds is noticeable for the lasting qualities of its cut

are tenuissimus, plumosus nanus. a species of more introduction which popular on ac fine foliage and willowy stems, fully recurve, ingly attractive vase plant. It is have proved to

ularly to winter on its ability



ASPARAGUS COMORENSIS.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITOR.

Flower in Shady Places.

Will you kindly tell me if there are any flowers which will do well in a shaded place, which has the sun late in the afternoon. E. W. C.

See answer to a similar question in Letter Box, of last month, page 89.

Leaf to Name.

I send you a leaf from a house plant I have and wish you would give me the name of it. It grows like a little tree. Mrs. W. J. D.
Palmyra, Neb.

The plant is the variegated Japan euonymus.

Wood Ashes.

Will you kindly state sometime in the MAGAZINE, whether wood ashes benefit a clayey soil, which is used for fruit growing? J. B. S.
Tiskilwa, Ill.

Wood ashes are very beneficial on all fruit grounds, and there is no danger of using too many of them.

Soil For a Lemon Tree.

I have a lemon tree which was budded five or six years ago and which has borne about a dozen small lemons lately. I wish to transplant it this spring. Will you please tell me what kind of soil would be best for it? M. L. G.
Carroll, Ohio.

A soil composed of equal parts of good garden loam, leaf-mold, and well rotted manure is suitable.

Pea With Edible Pods.—Plums Dropping.

1.—Could you inform me of a pea that is used the same as string beans?
2.—Also why our plums drop off before getting ripe? C. R. M.

1.—The tall White Sugar pea is an excellent variety with edible pods.

2.—The plums drop off because they have been stung by the curculio and growth is stopped before maturity.

Asters.—Cyclamen.

The seeds received from you last year proved to be excellent, and my asters (Vicks Branching) were in every way as beautiful as advertised. They were much admired by all my friends. I hope all who try them will get as much pleasure from them as I have.

Will you please tell me what to do with my cyclamen when through blooming? Should it rest or continue to grow? Mrs. H. L. B.
Springfield, Mass.

See answer elsewhere in regard to cyclamen.

Lettuce Affected With Rust.

I have Hanson lettuce in a hot house which is affected with rust or the curl-up; stop growing and get yellow around the edge. Can you give cause or a remedy? W. S.
Atchison, Kas.

The cause is probably improper watering—watering late in the day so that the plants do not have time to dry, but go into the night wet, is apt to cause the trouble complained of, and care should be used to avoid such a condition.

Orange in Summer.

Will you please inform me through your MAGAZINE whether the Otaheite Orange will grow best in the sun or in the house in summer? Mrs. B. A. B.
Allentown, N. Y.

The Otaheite orange is a good veranda plant in the summer, and can be better cared for there than elsewhere; but it may be plunged in the open ground if desired, and in that case great care must be given to keep it regularly supplied with water.

Rose, Mrs. DeGraw.

I received a Mrs. DeGraw rose from you last year and it has proved entirely satisfactory, but will you please let me know if it is hardy? Mrs. F.
Peoria, Ill.

It is a tea rose and, so, not what is called hardy; however, many varieties of tea roses are wintered outside in the open ground, with suitable protection, in central and southern Illinois. How hardy this variety may prove to be there, when well covered, can be known only by trial.

Mushrooms Out of Doors.

I noticed in your catalogue your description for Mushrooms beds in a house. Can you tell me how to grow them out-of-doors, and the amount of spawn I will want for a bed about six by twelve feet.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

F. L. S.

It is not probable that there would be any marked success in attempting to raise mushrooms out of doors, unless in some exceptional locality and under conditions such as do not generally prevail in this country. About five pounds of spawn would be sufficient for a bed of the size named.

Chinese Sacred Lily.

I have a very beautiful Chinese lily and it has bloomed quite abundantly, but some one tells me the bulbs only bloom once. Will you tell me what to do with them when they are through blooming in order to make them bloom again? How does the florist get the second plant from them if they bloom but once? Mrs. L. F.
Fort Meade, South Dakota. Troop G. 8th Cav.

Throw the bulbs away after blooming and the next autumn procure new, strong bulbs brought direct from China. This is what all florists do, and what everybody does.

Worms on Gooseberry Bushes—Fringe Tree.

1.—Please inform me what will keep the worms off my Gooseberry bushes.

2.—Should a Fringe tree be trimmed to make it look well, or not? L. S.
Chilo, Ohio.

1.—Dust the bushes with white hellebore or mix it with water and sprinkle it on them. White hellebore is kept on sale for this purpose by all druggists.

2.—Fringe trees do not usually require much pruning, but take a proper shape without. There is no reason why a fringe tree may not be pruned whenever it is desirable to do so.

Little Gem Calla.

Six years ago I bought a Little Gem Calla lily and it has never had but one flower on it; just multiplies all the time. What shall I do,—take them off or leave them on? Mrs. L. R.

The old tuber may never blossom, but the offsets can be grown until of blooming size. Plant them in the garden for the summer. Take them up and pot them in September and start to grow. Keep them plentifully supplied with water until the foliage begins to turn yellow in the spring; then, lessen the supply and in

May or June plant them in the garden again.

Calla Making Offsets.

I have a lovely calla lily that has always bloomed until this year. Along in the fall, after I repotted it after its rest through the summer, it commenced to send shoots up beside the old plant and formed what seemed to be another calla. Did this prevent its blooming and should I cut these off? H. M.
Oxford, Ind.

When a calla tuber enters upon a stage of reproduction, such as described, it is best not to depend upon it longer for bloom, but to procure a young, strong tuber just ready for blooming, such as seedmen and florists deal in. The tuber is not capable of blooming and producing offsets freely at the same time.

Asters.—Leader Tomato.—Auratum Lily.

The asters I purchased of you were elegant; they were greatly admired. People thought them chrysanthemums—I mean to have more of them this year.

The Leader tomatoes did finely with us. They are the finest flavored tomatoes we have ever tasted,—they are next to ripe peaches. My folks did not tire of them; my husband would eat a coffee-saucer full of them and then call for more. Can the Editor of VICKS MAGAZINE tell me, in the next number, how to grow a Japan rayed lily bulb. One was given me some time ago but it doesn't grow one bit.
Barre, Mass.

Mrs. C. K. G.

Better dig a good mellow spot in the garden and set the Auratum lily bulb in it about eight inches deep. If some good leaf mold can be got it will be best to mix a large proportion of it with the soil when the bulb is set. In winter cover the ground with a thick layer of leaves.

Moonflower in Winter.

Do the roots of a moonflower have to be taken up in the fall, or do they live out doors through the winter? C. E.

When the first light frosts come the roots of the moonflower can be taken up, the tops cut off, and potted, keep the pots in a cool, dark place until they are wanted to start. If one has a greenhouse they can be set away under the benches until midwinter or February. They will be all right in a frost-proof cellar. When started the latter part of winter or early in spring they can have cuttings taken from them and rooted, giving a supply of young plants. And finally, when the weather is suitable, most of the new growth can be removed and the plants set out again in the ground for another season's bloom.

Shrubs and Roses for Montana.

Will you please give a list, through your MAGAZINE of some hardy shrubs and roses that will stand the climate here. We are near the center of the state from north to south, and just at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Have light frosts as late as June and as early as September.

I want some vines but do not know what to order. Would like a climbing rose if there is one that will thrive here. Will the *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*, sweet honeysuckle, spiræa and the old fashioned snow ball do well? Mrs. D. M. P.
Hogan, Montana.

Two good climbing hardy roses are the Queen of the Prairie and the Baltimore Belle. The shrubs mentioned by enquirer are among the hardiest, and probably will succeed in that locality. Perhaps some of the Montana readers who may be situated in the region named above, or

near it, may send us in lists for publication of such flowering shrubs as they have cultivated successfully.

++

Little Gem Calla.

I have had a Little Gem calla for three or four years, and it has never bloomed. It was in a four-inch pot for a year or so, and then was put in a five-inch pot. It is said that it will bloom when the stalks are not more than six inches high. Why has mine never bloomed? J. G.

Rochester Mills, Pa.

From what is here said it is inferred that the plant is kept watered and green or growing, all the time. It should be allowed to go dry in the summer, or at least it should be planted out in the garden and left to itself without artificial watering, for the summer. About September first take it up and pot in rich soil. If left dry in the pot turn it down on its side and lay it in a shady place and leave it for the season until the time above named, and then repot it. In the latter case begin in May to diminish the water supply gradually, and by middle of June discontinue it entirely.

++

Geraniums for Winter.—Freesias.

1.—Will you please give to the readers of the MAGAZINE the best way to prepare geraniums for next winter, to start new slips this spring or to cut down the old plants? Which way will produce the most blossoms?

2.—What shall I do with freesia bulbs after blooming? Mine have not bloomed this winter; if I set them out this summer will they blossom?

Mrs. H. L. B.

Springfield, Mass.

1.—Use the old plant. Pinch in the ends of the shoots and thus make them form more branches—this can be done at least three times during the season. Repot the plants this spring in rich soil, and keep them growing vigorously all summer. Remove all flower buds that appear before October.

2.—Freesia bulbs after blooming, or after the winter's growth has ripened, can be left in the pot of soil and be kept dry until September, when the largest of the bulbs can again be potted.

++

Kerosene for House Plants.

Can I use kerosene for insects on house plants, if so, how much for a gallon of water? P. E. B.

Pinney's Corners, Pa.

Kerosene will not mix with water; undiluted kerosene is destructive to vegetation. It is also destructive to insects. To mix and dilute it with water it must be prepared as an emulsion. Here is the method: Take two ounces of hard, brown soap and dissolve it in one quart of hot water; add to it one-half pint of kerosene; shake the mixture violently for some time, or stir it with an egg-beater, until there is a thorough blending of the parts, then add three quarts more water and stir all briskly. This will make a gallon of insect destroyer. Apply with a syringe.

But for house plants kerosene emulsion is seldom necessary. Insect powder, tobacco dust, weak tobacco water or a solution of tobacco soap, will ordinarily suffice.

Bean Weevil.—Potato Scab.

1.—Will you please inform me if there is any remedy for weevil in beans? We have been much troubled by them for several years.

2.—The potato scab remedy has been very valuable to us. Have used it for two seasons now, and on land badly infected—can raise a crop nearly free from scab. The MAGAZINE is quite a help in many ways. C. O.

1.—There is no way to prevent the bean weevil from depositing its eggs in the young green beans. What can be done to lessen the evil is to destroy the larvæ in the beans after harvesting, and thus prevent any great increase of the insects. Those making a business of raising beans are careful to destroy the larvæ or grubs, and this is done by placing the beans in tight casks or compartments and there evaporating, or volatilizing, carbon bisulphide; another method is to subject the beans for an hour to a temperature of 145°—this can be done without injuring the vitality of the seeds.

++

Club-Root of Cabbage and Head Rot.

1.—What is the cause of cabbages having what is called "Club root," and what will prevent it?

2.—Also what causes the rot of the cabbage in the head until the whole head is destroyed? A. G.

Whetstone, Ohio.

1.—Club root of cabbage is caused by a minute organism or bacterium. These organisms live in the soil where the diseased plants have grown and attack the roots of the young plants the following season. To avoid them cabbage should be planted on new ground every year, or at least the same ground should not be occupied with a second crop for three or four years, and in the meantime be employed for raising other plants. A heavy dressing of quicklime is also beneficial in destroying the deleterious organisms, and a second crop will sometimes be more or less successful on land so treated.

2.—The disease of the head of cabbage is not so well understood and advice in regard to it cannot be given.

++

A Winter Bloomer.

I have in my possession a species of flower of which I do not know the name. It is a winter bloomer and can be propagated by means of cuttings as late as the first of August. If properly pruned and provided with a small ladder it becomes a vine, which will begin to bloom by the 1st of November and continue in flower until the next April. The accompanying water-color sketch gives but a faint conception of the beauty of the sprays of tiny flowers, as it was impossible to produce the high lights on the stamens of the sparkling drop of dew, which, when the plant is kept well watered, hangs in the center of each flower. As the blossoms die and produce minute seed balls new buds open at the end of the stem, which as they become longer, hang in graceful sprays from the ladder; and if one side of the same is kept continually toward the sun it soon becomes a solid mass of pink. I have counted as many as seventy sprays on one plant. And there is absolutely no let-up to the production of bloom the whole winter through. I have never seen an insect of any kind on the plants, nor known one to be sick. In the spring the entire habit of growth changes, new shoots with leaves on, instead of flowers, are produced, which when planted as cuttings take root as readily as a geranium, and can themselves be cut up again and again. Cuttings rooted in May are so big by July that they have to be thrown away and others started if the plant is to be kept in bounds for winter. The leaf is small, about the size and shape of the smaller leaves on a tea rose.

R. K. F.

Huntington, Pa.

The plant here described, and of which

the sketch, mentioned by the writer, was received, is *Lopezia racemosa*, a rather interesting Mexican plant which in the hands of some persons is very pretty as a winter bloomer, but not all would succeed with it as a house plant, though it is easy to raise if one has a room with even temperature and a light, sunny window.

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Fuchsia.—Otaheite Orange.—Roses.—Cyclamens.

1.—Two or three years ago I bought a fuchsia, Trailing Queen, which grows very slowly, and does not bloom worth mentioning. It receives the same careful treatment as my other fuchsias which thrive very well. What can I do to promote growth and blooming?

2.—At the same time I bought an Otaheite orange. This blooms some, but not much. About three weeks ago we noticed a profusion of buds, but the most of these have withered and dropped off and only a few remain. Both the above plants are kept in a bedroom where the temperature is kept at between fifty and sixty degrees Fahrenheit. The orange also has assumed a shape I do not like. Can it be trimmed and when?

3.—What is the best way to trim monthly roses?

4.—Would also like the correct treatment of cyclamens.

C. F. L.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

The fuchsia during winter should be kept nearly dry and in a cool place, so that it will be nearly or quite dormant. Then in March it should be given a warm place and have water more frequently as it grows. The foliage also should be frequently syringed. As growth progresses pinch in the ends of the shoots to cause them to branch freely. As the plant fills the soil with roots it should be shifted to a pot of larger size. Temperature of about sixty-five degrees when the plant is growing freely is about right, and there should be a full exposure to the light, and all that is possible should be done to maintain a moist or humid atmosphere. As to soil, one composed of about equal parts of good loam and leaf mold, with a small proportion of sand and old, rotted manure, will be right. When the growth of the plant is commenced it should be steadily encouraged until it arrives at the blooming stage. In the latter part of the season less water will be required, while the plant is yet fully exposed to the sun and air, in order that the wood may thoroughly ripen and be ready for its winter rest.

2.—The orange will bloom more freely now the weather is becoming warmer. If a shoot or two should be taking a wrong direction, or developing unduly, pinching or pruning may be resorted to at any time.

3.—Any trimming of monthly roses should be when they are not growing much, but it is better to regulate the growth by pinching the ends of the shoots and thus not causing much check.

4.—Cyclamens during summer can be kept in a shady place, not dry, but with only a little water. Some time in August repot, keeping the bulb nearly or wholly above the soil. Place in a good light and increase supply of water as growth progresses.



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H. P. HUBBARD, M'gr.

Obituary.

A noted British horticulturist writer and author, the late Dr. Robert Hogg, passed to his last rest on the 14th of March last, in the 80th year of his age. After concluding his studies at the Edinburgh University, at the age of 18, he went to London and entered into employment with a nursery firm and learned the business. Afterwards he became a partner in an establishment at that time and long after famous, the Brompton nursery at Kensington. He made special study of pomology and in 1851 brought out his "British Pomology" and this was later superseded by the "Fruit Manual," "a large work, which has passed through five editions, and has been several times translated." "In 1858 he produced the 'Vegetable Kingdom and its Products.' This work must have involved great labor and research, as it contains an enumeration of 7,000 genera and 4,000 synonyms, representing about 100,000 species of plants. He was also the co-author with the late Mr. G. W. Johnson of the 'Wild Flowers of Great Britain,' published in eleven volumes."

In 1855 Dr. Hogg associated himself with Mr. Johnston who was editor and proprietor of the *Cottage Gardener*, which afterwards was called the *Journal of Horticulture*. After the death of Mr. Johnston in 1886, Dr. Hogg became the sole proprietor of the publication. It remains to-

day one of the most prominent and reliable of English horticultural journals, and extracts from it frequently appear in our columns.

Dr. Hogg was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him and his death is sincerely mourned.

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As a sad and painful duty we now notice the death of one of our fellow townsmen, Mr. Phillip Wickens, who for very many years has been connected with the great nursery establishment of Ellwanger and Barry, the Mount Hope Nurseries of this city. For nearly forty years Mr. Wickens has been identified with the subject of pomology, having had charge during that time of the fruit department of the firm named above. His habitual attendance at fruit exhibitions, at fairs and horticultural meetings had made him a familiar acquaintance of the prominent fruit growers in this state, and many other parts of the country, and by whom he was constantly consulted, and appealed to, as an expert in determining varieties of fruits. He was always ready to afford with cheerfulness the assistance of his peculiar knowledge and skill to those who desired it. Mr. Wickens' horticultural tests and acquirements were not confined entirely to pomology, but related to plants and gardening generally. His many friends and acquaintances miss and mourn him.

Crimson Clover in a Vineyard.

For the past eight or nine years we have been using crimson clover as a fertilizing crop in a vineyard on the shores of Canandaigua Lake. In seasons of plentiful snowfalls, and especially if the snow remains on the ground during the month of March, the clover will winter without injury. But when the ground is bare the frequent freezing and thawing throws the plants out of the ground and they are destroyed. To prevent this we adopted, several years since, the practice of sowing oats with the clover seed. The ground being prepared for the seed, the oats are first sown at the rate of about a bushel to the acre and well dragged in. Then the clover seed is sown and dragged very lightly. The oats come up, make a good growth by the time frosts come and then being killed, fall down covering the clover lightly and afford the needed protection. We have never failed to preserve the clover when the oats have been sowed with it, and have scarcely ever saved it when not used. Sometimes when a portion of the ground has not received the oat seeding the clover crop on it has been killed, while all that where it had been used was safe. We now record another instance of this kind. About five acres sown with oats came out with a healthy crop of clover this spring, while the clover on about half an acre where the oats were not used is entirely killed out. The seeding is usually made some time in July, and experience has shown that the early part of the month is preferable.

A Book About the Earth.

The great features of the earth's surface, its plains and hills, its mountains and valleys, streams, lakes and seas, and the forces which are constantly operating in and through them, must always be a subject of more or less interest to gardeners, and all lovers of nature. The Macmillan Company of New York, have lately issued an "Elementary Geology" which is particularly interesting in the treatment of these subjects. The writer is Professor Ralph S. Tarr, of Cornell University, and he has succeeded in placing his accurate information on the subject treated in so fascinating a manner in this work that it will be read with pleasure by all who take it up. The character of soils and their formation, the effects of climate, of plants and animals and forest protection, upon soil and the earth's surface are all skillfully treated. All the great forces or agencies of earth changes such as rivers and floods and glaciers and volcanoes, and hundreds of other topics, are brought under review. The volume is illustrated by nearly 300 illustrations and plates, most of which are reproductions from photographs. The book sells at \$1.40.

The Secretary of Agriculture.

The *Review of Reviews* for April gives an extended article on "The New Administration at Washington," in which it notices Mr. Wilson's eminent fitness for the position of Secretary of Agriculture. He has been connected with the "Government's Agricultural Experiment Station in Iowa, also Professor of Agriculture at the State Agricultural College, at Ames, Iowa. He has been a contributor to the Agricultural press," and is in the very closest touch with all phases of the remarkable practical and scientific work for the advancement of agriculture that has been undertaken in recent years through the Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Colleges, the experiment stations, the farmers' institutes and otherwise.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Wilson is the man for the place. The position is an important one and the duties of the office should be discharged with reference to the interests of the whole community, and without political considerations.

A Children's Garden.

The above is the title of a leaflet issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Cornell University. Its object is to interest the school children to make a little garden, and care for it during the summer, and next September have a little fair at each school house where can be shown what each child has raised. It proposes this season to give special attention to raising sweet peas and asters, and gives instructions about them. Teachers can get the leaflets by addressing Chief Clerk, College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

THE PROMISE OF THE MAY.

Blithe May comes tripping o'er the lea;
A fair and winsome maid is she,
And just as sweet as sweet can be
The pleasures in her train.
The starry nights, the sunny days,
The bursting buds in bowery ways,
The mating birds' gay roundelays,
The springing grass and grain.

The deep bloom-drifted apple-trees,
With perfumes for each passing breeze,
Where toil the happy humming bees
For precious store of sweets;
The rippling laugh of truant rills
At hide and seek among the hills;
The quickened life that safely thrills
And in earth's bosom beats;

The note of labor thrilling strong
From early morn till even long;
The fresh'ning hills and vales among,
Where farmers are afield.

May whispers promise sweetly fair
In earth and sky and balmy air,
Of plenteous harvest, and to spare,
Which this glad year shall yield.

O, skies! send down your timely rain,
O, earth! put forth your fruit and grain,
That not this year shall toil in vain
Be lavished on the lands.

O, brain, and brawn,
and skilled hand
true!

The hungry world hath
need of you
To fill the granaries
anew

With good gifts from
His hands.
DART FAIRTHORNE.

* *

THE POLYANTHA ROSE.

CONSIDER the roses of this class as the most valuable of all for pot culture, and also of the greatest value for growing in the open ground. Their merits have not been sufficiently recognized by rose lovers. They are natives of Japan,—or at least the original species is,—and have been greatly improved by crossing with the Teas, etc. The foliage is small, glossy, and not so liable to attacks of insects, mildew, or black spot as that of other roses.

The flowers are produced in paniced clusters frequently containing dozens of flowers and buds, and the plant is ever-blooming in the highest degree. Cuttings are barely rooted before buds appear, and during the growing season the plants are rarely without flowers. It is this great freedom of bloom that makes them such admirable pot plants; they will continue to produce quantities of flowers under conditions where a Tea rose would not show a bud. The flowers of most varieties are very small, in fact the smallest of all roses is a Polyantha—yet they are very dainty, elegant, and beautiful. In this latitude* they are hardy and require little

if any protection, further north they will perhaps require some protection. If intended for winter blooming, the plants should be given special culture with that end in view, though even if taken right out of the ground in the autumn, after blooming all summer, they will generally continue to produce their flowers during the winter. But much the best method is to procure nice healthy, but small, plants in the spring, potting them off in pots one size larger than those they grew in, shifting them into larger sized pots as they require until they are in four- or five-inch pots. They should then be plunged in a bed of coal ashes in some sunny spot to remain until time to repot in the fall. All flower buds should be kept pinched off as they appear; the plants must not be allowed to flower, if best results are expected. All strong growing shoots



GERANIUM, COURONNE D'ARGENTE.

should be kept pinched back, so as to keep the plant in proper shape, and at no time should the plants be allowed to suffer for water. Late in the fall the plants should be taken up, all shoots shortened back about one-third, and repotted into six-inch pots, well watered, and set in a cool shady place for a week or so, when they will be ready to bring into the house. A little liquid manure given now and then will be beneficial.

The Clothilde Soupert is the finest variety, as large as a Tea rose, exquisite pink, and very fragrant. Another very fine sort is the Marie Pavie, in fact next best to above, rich, creamy white flushed with rose, very fragrant and a most profuse bloomer. Madame Cecile Bruner, Parquette and Mignonette are all fine sorts.

MARTIN BENSON.

GERANIUM

COURONNE D'ARGENTE.

A VARIETY of variegated geraniums is figured on this page, which promises to be of more than ordinary value as a bedding plant. It is a French gain, having been sent out by a firm at Lyons, France. It is derived from the well known Madame Salleroi, but in what manner we are not informed. It is more vigorous in habit than the parent plant, but, like it, it forms upon the ground a compact, though larger, ball. The leaves also are larger and the white border on the bright green ground is stronger, better defined, and produces a better effect. The engraving represents a leaf of full size; the habit of the plant, as grown in a pot, is also accurately shown. The plant assumes a very symmetrical shape, and when bedded out never requires pinching. It is probable that this variety will come into great demand and be very extensively employed in garden work.

* *

A GOOD STRAWBERRY MULCH.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* residing at Camden, Arkansas, says:

In 1895, I mulched half my plants with planer chips, and the yield was doubled by the mulch. The fruit was much larger; the season of fruiting was prolonged from one to two weeks, and five plants were summerkilled on the unmulched portion where one died on the mulched. Michel's Early, Parker Earle and Crescent were the varieties grown. The chips were put on to a depth of five inches around, and not on the plant, the whole

bed being covered to that depth except immediately around the plants. Spinach is now growing where the strawberries grew, with neither good nor bad effects from the mulch. The soil is light and sandy, and the chips were from pine lumber.

HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.
Sold by all Druggists.

* Central Illinois.



Robins in the tree-tops,
Blossoms in the grass;
Green things a-growing
Everywhere you pass;
Pine-tree and willow-tree,
Fringed elm and larch,
Don't you think that May-time's
Pleasanter than March?—ALDRICH.

Asparagus raising is not overdone.

This journal seeks to help every reader in his work.

Mexico lately sent tomatoes to the New York market.

Heliotrope. All children like this flower because of the vanilla-like sweetness. It is so much like ice cream they say.

A New England florist has a specially erected greenhouse, in which is raised garlands of climbing asparagus thirty-five feet in length.

The Illinois Central railroad has for some years carried more than two thousand tons of strawberries into the Chicago markets per season.

Tell your neighbors. The person who finds delight in reading about gardening, is the person who finds success in gardening. The rule never fails.

A florist's exchange reports that the sweet pea is on the wane as a fashionable florist's flower. Dear, dear! how can we who love the bloom for its own sweet sake, ever stand that?

Harm to trees. Do you know that many a young tree receives serious damage, and some are killed, by boys thoughtlessly shaking them when at play? It disturbs the roots. Boys, this never will do.

Asparagus may be kept perfectly fresh and plump for several days after cutting, by standing it in fresh water, changing this morning and evening. Then before sending it to the pot or to market freshen the lower ends by cutting off with a sharp knife.

Keep up the sowings. Some gardeners in their zeal for early crops, quite neglect the matter of succession, and then beans, peas, corn, radishes and other things come in skimpy, or not at all, by midsummer and later. Sowings should be made at intervals of two weeks until near July.

Favorite house plant. In answer to your query in last month's issue I place the blooming begonias first as my choice of house plants, because both the foliage and bloom are handsome, the latter really superb, and they are easily managed. I have other favorites but the begonias are first.—E. S. Rockwood.

Dwarf Apples. "Don't say that they are of no value" writes our friend S. G. Walter, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. "This is in their favor: When grown on proper stock they bear young. I have gathered half a peck per tree by the third year. I set them eight by eight feet apart between the other trees, and by the time the latter come into bearing the dwarfs can be removed."

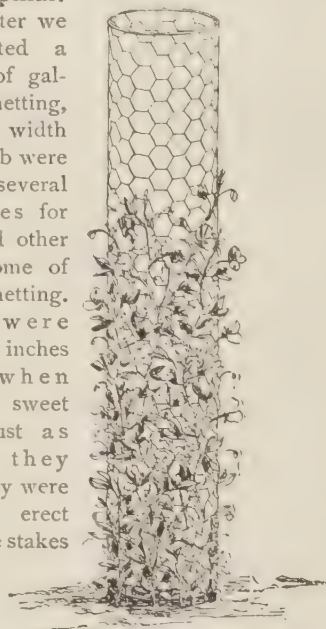
Tomato culture. This journal takes a stand against the common notion, that tomatoes on rich land run to vine at the expense of fruit. It is not the case. The largest crops and the best quality is grown on rich soil. The fruit here also is handsomer, being less inclined to angularity of form. Give the crop good soil and good tillage for the best results. That the plant adapts itself fairly well to poor soil, is no proof that it is better to grow it on such.

This Magazine proposes to be practical from the root up. It is planted in healthy soil, for a sturdy crop of sensible, practical ideas. It is to receive the best attention in pruning, fertilizing and watering; and worthless sprouts will not be allowed to get a start, much less to dwarf the better parts. Mildews and blights will be kept down, and the result shall be a tree handsome in leaf, in blossom and fruit. We invite you to become a partaker of the good things; and bring along your friends.

Sweet pea pillar.

Last season after we had constructed a poultry yard of galvanized wire netting, in which two width of five-foot web were used, we made several pillar trellises for sweet peas and other vines, with some of the remaining netting. The trellises were about ten inches through, and when covered with sweet peas, were just as handsome as they could be. They were kept properly erect by driving three stakes in the ground, to project a foot and for coming just within the trellises. After setting the trellises over the stakes, these were fastened together by wire, making the former staunch against wind. They were a success in every way. The same trellises will be put in again this season.—Mrs. G. E. Hargrave, Bucks County, Pa.

SWEET PEA PILLAR PARTLY COVERED.



Warming cold soils. Nine times out of ten when people complain of a cold, late garden, the trouble is poor drainage. Such remedies as the addition of sand, muck and stable manure are often mentioned; it is not these primarily that are wanted, even on clay land, but a system of good perfect-working tile drains. With two inch pipe at one rod apart, and these three feet under the surface; with an inch fall at least per rod, and an unobstructed outlet, and you have the secret of warming most of the cases of cold soil that occur.

Fairness in competition. I don't object to fair competition, in raising choice fruits, vegetables, etc., for market, by those who make a living therefrom. What I do object to is to see men of wealth who have made their money in other lines, keep their help occupied during spare time in raising produce, and then disposing of it at any sort of a price to assist in reducing the wage account. Such a course demoralizes the market in many places, almost driving regular gardeners out of the business. It seems to me that if men of wealth would only consider

the unfair effect of their course, they would quit it. Here is hoping that they will so see it.—J. L. Paine.

Patronized the Woods. A visitor in my garden last summer, fell quite in love with a patch of hepaticas in the wild garden. She admired the neat, handsome, three-pointed leaves, and all the more when told that they were evergreen. The flowers were past, but when I described them, as they appear in profusion each spring, my visitor was free to speak of the plant's loveliness, and sought to know where it could be procured. Imagine her surprise when I informed her that they came from the woods near by, and cost only the digging. And so it is; some of the handsomest plants, including ferns, that I have in my grounds were obtained in that way. They occupy a small grove, one part of which is devoted to wild flowers and vines. They are well suited, also, to occupy shady spots about the home, where nothing else will succeed. To me it is astonishing that so few people will open their eyes to the beauty of our wild plants and flowers.—Mrs. M. C. Gay, Orleans County, N. Y.

An unwelcome emigrant. Persons who keep their eyes open as they look about the twigs of spruce trees in May, are not unlikely to see spots of white here and there, consisting of many waxy threads which form the coat of an insect known as the spruce gall-louse. This insect is a native of Europe but it long ago was introduced to our shores, and has become quite widely distributed throughout this country. I have never known it to kill the trees, but it does disfigure them badly, by causing galls or burrs that mar their beauty very decidedly. If it gets a hold in nurseries and if not checked, it causes the young stock to become unsalable. At the Agricultural College at Amherst, in this state, much attention has been given to the insect by Professor Fernald and others. It is gratifying to learn that of many remedies tried with great care in this line, that of syringing the trees in the spring, with a solution of whale-oil soap, has proved very effectual. The solution is prepared by dissolving one pound of soap in two

That Tired Feeling

is a positive proof of thin, weak, impure blood, for if the blood is rich, pure, vitalized and vigorous it imparts life and energy. The necessity of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling is, therefore, apparent to everyone, and the good it will do you is equally beyond question. Take it now.

Dull Tired Feeling "I was afflicted with That Tired Feeling and general debility and had no appetite and my blood did not seem to circulate. I took different kinds of medicine without much benefit and finally began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and it gave me a good appetite and That Tired Feeling is gone. I heartily recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla. I find it is a cure for weakness and unsteady nerves."—JOHN C. SEAMANS, Cortland, N. Y.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Insist upon HOOD'S,—take no substitute.

Hood's Pills act harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla. 25c.

gallons of water and syringing the trees therewith. The affected parts should be cut away and burned. Keep the eyes alert for the cotton-like coats visible at this season, and destroy the insects before further mischief is done.—*W. A. H. Worcester, Mass.*

Women in horticulture.—According to the census of 1890, there were 312 commercial greenhouses or about one in fifteen owned and managed by women. We have a personal acquaintance with several women who are successful retail florists. Other women to our knowledge, are making a success of raising carnations and other flowers for the wholesale



BRANCH OF SPRUCE INFESTED WITH GALL-LOUSE BURR.

trade. These people soon learn that the business of raising and selling flowers is beset by much care and labor that does not come under the head of poetry. And yet nearly all women florists that we have met, were led into the business because they first of all loved flowers. It adds to the delight and success of any occupation if one has a love therefor. There is no question that, as a rule, women have a greater fondness than men for flowers, why therefore should they not engage in growing and handling them for profit. The rougher work about flower raising, such as the care of greenhouse furnaces, the handling of soil and manure, and the like can easily be done by men who work for moderate wages. If women are successful as florists, they are equally so as raisers of vegetables and small fruits especially strawberries; they direct the rougher work, help to prepare the produce for customers, and perhaps take in hand the selling, thus keeping closely in touch with the state of the market. Generally speaking, we think that the raising of strawberries near our best markets, is farther from being overdone, than that of almost any other kind of produce. The consumption is enormous and fresh fruit brought quickly from the fields, without a large distance intervening, always will sell considerably higher than fruit long from the vines that has been shipped. Much of the work of picking and handling small fruits, is well suited to be done by women.

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REMINDERS FOR MAY.

ANNUALS of all kinds may be sown outdoors.

AIR the frames, window-garden and greenhouse freely.

ABUTILONS. Shift and plunge the pots for the summer.

ASPARAGUS. For the beetle dust the beds with air-slaked lime. Leave thin shoots uncut for larvæ to work in.

BEETS. Sow in drill at any time. Thin early.

BROCOLI for fall use should be sown about the first.

BOBBER. Dig them out of apple and other trees, using a barbed wire.

BLACKBERRIES. Pull off suckers to prevent the row spreading too far and clean out old and dead wood.

BEANS. Plant snap beans any time after danger of frost is past. Limas should go in only after the ground is warm.

CARROTS. Sow main crop.

CELERY. Set out for earliest crop.

CORN. Plant for succession in good soil.

CUCUMBERS. Sow main crop, also for early pickles.

CABBAGE. Sow seed for main fall and winter crop.

CALLAS are best managed by bedding out for the summer.

CACTUS. Water freshly when in flower, sparingly when dormant.

CURCULIO. Jar the plum trees over sheets, then burn the insects.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS. Shift often enough to allow no check in the growth.

CANNAS AND CALADIUMS. Bed them in rich soil and give much water.

CURRENTS. Powdered hellebore, either dry or in solution applied to the leaves, is a sure remedy for the leaf worm.

DUTCH BULBS. Dig with soil adhering and heel in shady place to ripen.

DAHLIAS. Plant out the tubers or if you have started plants set them as soon as there is no longer danger from frosts.

EGG PLANT. Plant out by end of month.

FERNS. Stock up shady places with the hardy kinds.

FUCHSIAS. Rest by partially withholding water after the bloom is past.

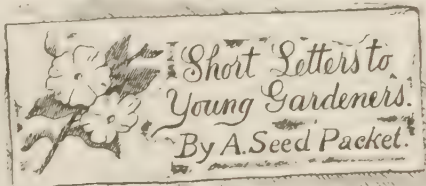
GLADIOLUS. Plant for successions three inches deep.

HOTBEDS. When vacant plant to cucumbers or melons, a hill to each sash.

HANGING BASKETS. Fill these for summer adornment.

HYDRANGEAS should now go out. Give an occasional dose of liquid manure.

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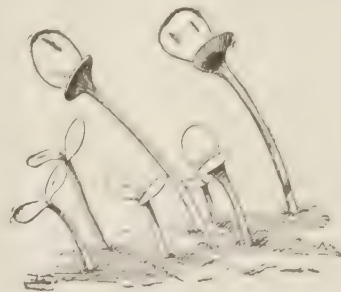
DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS:

I see that my other letter was printed, for which I thank the printer, and here I come again.

I saw in our MAGAZINE that one writer speaks of a seed as a plant-egg; and a picture of a pansy "egg" was given, in which the tiny plantlet within was plainly in sight. Now that was nice, and no seed packet could help but like such a way of putting things, for it makes matters plain. If people will only look on us as so many satchels, filled with pretty little plant cases, and which need but a bit of attention in planting, in order to have the plants wake up to beauty and use, that would be getting things quite right. And wouldn't our services then be more valued? I think so. I told you that seeds need some attention from human hands. They are indeed quite like children, need-

ing warmth, food, air and light. They show these needs in various ways, as we can see.

Here is a picture of some sweet little baby asters; it is taken from life. Why do the little plants turn so to one side? This is because they are in need of something. They want more light. They cannot cry for it, as a human baby that should waken



BABY ASTERS REACHING FOR LIGHT.

up in a darkened room might do, but see how they stretch for it with all their might. How pathetic is their look? If the seed pan is not moved they will receive injury. Poor little things, they may even become weak and crippled for life, if not attended to.

So you see that the little plants, from the little seeds we bring, are much like all living things. They suffer if their needs are not supplied. By the wilting of their leaves they say: "I am very thirsty, give me drink." By their pale color they say "I am sick, give me food, give me warmth, give me air." By their stretching forth as the picture shows, they say "give me light" and so on.

I hope that all my young readers who have plants in their charge, will watch them, to see that they never suffer. I am sure you would not allow them to lack for anything that you can supply.

A Plant Feeds

on its seed till it grows a root that can forage for it. The process of sprouting changes the hard seed into soluble, digestible food.

Malting is sprouting. Malt Extract is plant food transformed into human food made easy of digestion.

Pabst
Malt Extract
The "BEST" Tonic

is the purest and most nourishing of Malt Extracts, the most strengthening and digestible of foods.

Sold by all druggists at 25c. a bottle, or 12 for \$2.50.

FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR BICYCLES.

IN the various cities of Europe the fancy costumed riders form a large contingent in all the enjoyable cycling events, both indoor and in the open air. No time of the year is more beautiful for the outdoor displays than from June to November, and enough is now known of the plans of many riders to promise fine displays in this direction. But there cannot be too many of them, and those who make the effort to contribute to this feature can feel assured of having added

all the New York parades last year some beautiful examples of the florist's handiwork were seen. A New York florist said recently that he had been consulted by quite a number of cyclists who thought of having their machines bedecked for this particular parade. Among the designs mentioned, was one of transforming the wheel, by means of white carnations, into the shape of a huge swan. Another rider thought of having his wheel represent an immense pipe, all of flowers, in the bowl of which the owner will be seated. A bevy of girls propose dressing

give some indication of the ingenuity that will be exercised.

Americans are said to be very prosaic, given over almost wholly to the cares and worries of business. While this may be true, it can be said that the bicycle has brought a great deal of gaiety into our lives.

In connection with this series of articles we desire to call attention to the League of American Wheelmen, of which every cyclist should be a member. The advantages are many,—too many to be enumerated here,—and are greatly in excess of the nominal membership fee. Write to the secretary, Mr. Abbott Bassett, Boston, Mass., for information in regard to this great organization of 75,000 cyclists.

SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

JULY 27th.—A *Helianthus multiflorus* plenus (dahlia sunflower) which was a mailing plant last spring, is now four feet high, and is opening its first flowers and there are lots of buds. The great plant I had last year, ten years old perhaps, a great mass of foliage six feet tall, and having a hundred flowers at once, one day when I counted them, died in the winter,—I think of too much water about the roots,—so I had to get another. Few plants are more satisfactory than this; it is perfectly hardy (in dry ground), very bright and showy, and most floriferous, being in bloom from late July till frost.

A perennial phlox, *M. Bezanson* the catalogue calls it, is in bloom,—a mailing plant last spring. Violet-purple, the list said, but it looks to me like dark scarlet,



"BABY" MCKEE.

MARY MCKEE.

much to the enjoyment of the occasion. It is evident that the floral decoration of wheels, both for parades and rural rides, is coming to be more of a fad, and a very popular one, too. Miss Bisland's article last month was so comprehensive that little can be added, except in a general way and giving suggestions as to what has been or is going to be done.

A clever picture of ex-President Harrison's grandchildren, Miss Mary McKee and "Baby," is shown, and is reproduced from a photograph taken at the floral fête in Saratoga for *Leslie's Illustrated*.

Another one taken on Children's Day at the Exposition last fall at Portland, Ore., of petite Miss Kernan, who decorated her wheel with chrysanthemums and smilax.

The different ways of trimming both the wheel and the person of the rider are almost innumerable, and ingenuity of the best sort can well be displayed in this direction. On rural rides do not forget string, bits of fine wire and elastic bands, as handy adjuncts for coming home in fine shape.

The New York *Evening Telegram's* prize bicycle parade takes place June 5th, and there seems no room to doubt that the display of decorated wheels will be the finest ever seen in this country. In these decorations flowers will naturally be used more extensively than anything else. The bicycle lends itself most readily to the purpose of floral decking. In

white, with their wheels elaborately decorated with scarlet and white roses. One bicycle will represent a miniature yacht, the mast being raised from the handle bar, a small foresail and bowsprit being also included,—similar to our illus-



A WHEEL DECORATED WITH CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND SMILAX.

tration last month; the body of the bicycle will be completely hidden in flowers. These are only a few of the many designs that are being talked about, but they

with a darker eye. Not quite so bright as a scarlet silk or Shirley poppy,—it does not lack much of it; a large clump in flower will make a great show. This and

the Alfred Wallace, a pure white flower with a bright crimson eye, are the largest flowered of all the phloxes, so far as I have seen; both are larger than a quarter dollar. Coccinea, rose rather than red, is a splendid sort; Meteor is the Alfred Wallace,—with a difference. Then I have selfsown seedlings of my own, pure white, white with pink tubes, and white with red eye, pink, rose, etc., fifteen or twenty sorts in all, and more coming every year. If there is a better all-round plant than the perennial phlox I shall be glad to get it. At present I don't believe there is.

The native ground-nut, *Apios tuberosa*, often called tuberous wistaria by the catalogue maker, has been in bloom some time. Tuberous enough, no doubt; but there isn't much wistaria, though the leaves of the two are not very unlike. But the flower spikes of the apios are erect instead of drooping, very much smaller, and of a curious brown tint never seen in any other flower of my acquaintance, except in that of the arabassaca, *Asarum Canadensis*. The smell is similar to mignonette, which is not fragrance to me. The plant is odd and curious rather than beautiful. Once started it remains and spreads somewhat.

Both four-a'clocks and single balsams are in bloom, from selfsown seed, though I have others I sowed in open ground. The crimson four-o'clock and scarlet balsam are splendid plants which should be grown by all.

A little plant new to me is *saponaria* Scarlet Queen, a low annual, spreading widely, but less than a foot high, having many small, bright, catchfly-like flowers. Just beginning to bloom today (August 2d); it seems likely to continue a long time and will no doubt selfsow.

E. S. GILBERT.

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A TALK ABOUT THE DANDELION. No. 1.

SOME years ago we lived about midway between the village and the country school. The distance to either school seemed too great for my little ones to attend. My neighbor across the way and I concluded that the only way out of the difficulty was to teach our children at home. One of the things I did was to form a little class in botany, which the neighbor's children were invited to join. We had such a pleasant and profitable time together that I have been wondering whether I might not be able to help some other boys and girls who would like to know something about plants and flowers, but who feel that they do not know how to learn about them without the aid of a teacher. Boys and girls, especially those who live in the country and have such excellent opportunities for collecting and studying plants, ought to be able to take advantage of their good fortune. They may need just a little outside stimu-

lus to induce them to take an interest in the green and growing things about them. Just a trifle helps to guide them in their work. What say you, boys and girls? Shall we have a class through the the spring and summer? All who have said "Yes" may consider themselves members of the class, and we will begin work at once,—or play, rather, for we will find it great fun to learn a little about plants, for we will do it in such an easy way that you will wonder what people mean who think it hard work to study botany.

Now the dandelion is not a simple, easy flower to begin to study; in fact, it is one of the most difficult ones, but it is the first flower you are most likely to find in the spring, and it is also the one which every one of you is the most familiar with, and so we will see what we can find out about it.

When you pick a dandelion, you in reality pluck what botanists call "a head of flowers." When an author writes a biography of any great man or woman



DANDELION—*TARAXACUM OFFICINALE*.

he always tells all he can find out of any importance about the ancestors,—or parents and grandparents,—before he writes anything about his subject proper. We will follow the same plan in some measure, for plants, like people, belong to families and have relations. In order that you may have due respect for the common dandelion which grows here and there and everywhere, which cares for itself in such a sturdy, brave way, and which seems to grow just for little boys and girls to pick and make into chains, and horns, and curls,—in order that you may have due respect, I say, for this common flower, I want you to know that it belongs to one of the largest and most important plant families. Among the scientific people of the world the dandelion goes by the name of *Taraxacum officinale*; the family name is *Compositæ*. This is a sort of grandfather name; there are nearly a hundred members of this family. What a time there would be at a golden wedding, where all the children and grandchildren were present in the *Compositæ* family! The children are

called *genera*, or when speaking of but one it is called a *genus*. The grandchildren are *species*. Now if you get this relationship clearly in mind, you will have learned a good lesson in botany,—for I have known grown-up boys and girls who seemed to never understand what was meant by genus or species.

You are already acquainted with some of the dandelion's relations (other genera of the *Compositæ* family); but people are so afraid of committing an impropriety in speaking to anyone without a formal introduction that I will just go through the form of saying "Boys and girls, let me introduce you to a few of the dandelion's relations: The golden-rods, the asters, the sunflowers, ironweed, joe-pye weed, dog-fennel, boneset, fleabane, everlasting, elecampane, ragweed, cocklebur, ox-eye daisy, Spanish needle, chamomile, yarrow, tansy, burdock, thistle, wild lettuce, etc."

You see you know a good many plants which belong to the *Compositæ* family, besides our dandelion. All of these plants have scientific names, but we will only try to remember our *Taraxacum officinale*, and you will have great fun telling others what a fine, long name the dandelion has.

Now we have done our duty to the family connexions, and we can get back to the dandelion itself, which we will talk about in our next lesson. We will have to learn some names which grown people think are hard to learn, but boys and girls can say them as easily as they can say Jack Robinson or Yankee Doodle, so do not be afraid of strange words; they will soon grow familiar, and it is only what you do not know, that is difficult,—as soon as you learn a thing it seems very plain and simple to you.

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

Columbus, Ohio.

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MUSHROOMS NEED A BED OF MANURE.

An enquirer, in *Gardening*, announces that he has bought the book "Mushrooms and How to Grow Them," with the purpose of learning how to raise mushrooms in the basement of his house, and then asks the question: "If it is absolutely necessary to use manure?" He furthermore says: "The soil I shall use is fine loam with well rotted cow manure which has been 'turned over' about two years. How many bricks of spawn must I buy for a bed nine by four feet and how deep shall I make the bed if I use no manure?"

The following reply is made:

Loam alone or loam in which some old cow manure has been mixed may grow mushrooms, but if you want a good crop of them you had better come right down to orthodox principles and use well prepared manure. If the manure has been well prepared beforehand, and brought into the cellar just when fit to be built into beds, it won't be objectionable. Go by the teachings of that book, it is made up of practical facts. Four bricks might do, but better get five,

MINIATURE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

A new idea in regard to chrysanthemums was exhibited last autumn at the exposition of the French National Horticultural Society. There were on exhibition some miniature chrysanthemum plants in pots of two or three inches in diameter, each being a single flower five or six inches in diameter. An account of the manner in which these little plants are produced is given, as follows, by a writer in *La Revue Horticole*:

About the middle of August cuttings are taken, from plants cultivated in pots or in the open ground bearing at the extremity of each a crown bud, reserved for the purpose when dis-budding five or six days previously. The cuttings are then placed in little pots about an inch in diameter filled with a properly prepared com-



MINIATURE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

post. These pots are then plunged in a spent hot-bed and kept close for three weeks under shaded sash. At the end of this time the little balls of soil are filled with roots. They are then repotted in two or three-inch pots and placed in a cool greenhouse where in due time they expand their large flowers.

The writer further says, that these little plants sent out in small jardinières and mingled with ferns, make charming and durable decorative subjects, demanding no other care than a supply of water. It is apparent that such little plants would frequently be serviceable in the decoration of our rooms when large plants would be inappropriate or undesirable. Chrysanthemum growers may find serviceable this mode of culture.

SEED PODS.

Our daffodils have become patriotic. The first golden Von Sion of '97 opened Feb. 22d!

Have you started the brain hot-bed of plans? It should sprout and grow under your hat weeks before a seed is sown.

A spraying of water followed by a sifting of wood ashes over the bushes is an effective method of destroying the pestiferous rose aphides of spring.

For a splendid array of purple and gold plant *Delphinium formosum* and *Artemisia stellaris* near together in large clumps; but remember when locating the clumps that they may reach the height of five feet.

Cunning little plants of *hydrangea* can be obtained by using the flower buds as cuttings.

These root readily if taken off with a "heel." Grown in small pots on the forcing plan they will soon show complete tops of bloom.

If you are not certain that your seeds are good, spread some on a damp flannel cloth, cover with another flannel, keep all moist and in a warm place for several days. Under these conditions good seeds will quickly germinate.

Some perfectly pure white flowers of the Japanese anemone, Whirlwind, nodded above the first drifts of an early snow last fall, and this spring, while a light skurry of March snow was yet disappearing, lifting the mulch from beds of perennials, we found fresh leaf buds starting from the anemone's thick clump of roots.

The ideal label, so far as I can think it out, would be a narrow strip of tin, or aluminum, with the name perforated and one end prolonged into a wire, which might be either bent around a branch or stuck in the ground. These certainly would not decay or rub out, and as certainly would be expensive, but they seem entirely worth while. Who will help us to get them?

Cold frames for pansies and sweet violets are quite common, but who has tried them for coaxing the English daisy into winter bloom? All through January and February we have been gathering the "wee, modest crimson-tippit flowers," and now, in March and April, the buds seem to fairly gush from the soil. Being uncommon so early in the year they have been much admired.

One of the handsomest genera belonging to the Campanulaceæ is the platycodon. It is like a graceful grand harebell, forming a densely branched clump of upright habit. The leaves are neat, pretty and plain green; the flowers are large, bell-shaped, and exceedingly handsome. They vary from pure white to deepest blue, and often forms of white or blue will be spotted or striped with the contrasting color. Frequently the flowers are semi-double. I wish I could oftener see this plant growing in hardy borders; it gives so much beauty for so little care.

A writer in *Gardening* advocates the raising of beds on clay soil. Now I wonder if he has

ever tried it! For beds of tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs started in fall, the practice is good, for we are usually deluged with rain in winter, and the bulbs would decay if not well drained. But woe be unto those plants that find themselves in raised beds of clay, even mulched ones, here in summer! Our hot suns bake their roots most effectually in one day, the water running from this baked clay as from a brick pavement. We have two gardens, one of sands, one of clay. The first being low, has its row, ridged, or bedded up, for better drainage; the second is given level culture. We tried raising the beds for the latter a year or two ago, and neither we nor the plants have yet recovered from results.

Nothing in the line of hardy bulbs naturalizes for us so determinedly as the jonquils and daffys. They have taken a goodly space in our yard and hold it despite persistent mowing and digging among them. Clumps containing from one to two hundred bulbs are sometimes lifted, and when thrown out with other litter from the yard spring up wherever soil has kindly covered them. The yellow Von Sions bloom first in spring, followed by *Incomparabilis*, Orange, Phoenix and finally the *Campernelles*. One variety of *Narcissus polyanthus*, white with orange cup, has proved entirely hardy with us, so that this year we are testing Paper White and other sorts. We planted about 3,000 bulbs of *N. alba plena odorata* this spring, and have no doubt that they will prove hardy. This last was a commercial venture.

A friendly florist, who perhaps did not yet know the value of his stock for propagating, sent me two plants of the President Carnot rose last spring. They grew nicely despite our unfavorable season, and when only a few inches tall one of the plants opened a magnificent flower of creamy salmon-flesh, shading to a slightly warmer, deeper glow in the center. The shape of the half-blown flower was extremely elegant,—long, full, rounded and tapering, as thoroughbreds usually are, with that peachen-sweetness of fragrance that is one of the most irresistible charms of a rose. The deep, broad petals form a very large, full, rich

AS GOOD AS GOLD!



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To further introduce our excellent 20 page illustrated household magazine "Good Reading," we make this wonderful offer of valuable gifts: To any person sending us 25 cents, money order or stamps to pay for "Good Reading," 6 months (price 50c year) we will send, postpaid, an all linen doily, 18 inches square, stamped in a beautiful design, ALSO the "Clio Needle Case," containing 4 packages of needles, assorted sharps 5 to 7, 10 black steel hat and shawl pins and 10 best heavy steel needles warranted not to bend, break or cut the thread. These needles are put up in fine lithographed case, 10 inches long. ALSO, with the Doily and Needle Case, we will send you postpaid, your choice of any of the following books, "The American Family Cook Book," "The Ladies' Guide to Beauty" or "Dramatic Recitations," by America's leading elocutionists. The above offer is honest and will be carried out to the letter. If after receiving these gifts you are not satisfied we will cheerfully refund the money. This offer is for a limited time only and may not appear again.

N. B. Subscriptions received before July 1st will be entered till January 1898. Address,

"GOOD READING," NORWALK, OHIO.



flower, and are so thick in texture that my first bloom was a joy for several days. The little bushes grew along sturdily through the season, promising to yield even finer flowers this year. The leaf and wood, too, are *distingué*. The first is dark-green, broad, deeply-ridged with veins. The second, on my small plants, seems unusually smooth and of a dark, brownish green. Certainly this rose promises to deserve all the praise and advertising that have been given it.

Winter window roses are coveted by everyone, but they are not so easily achieved. My most successful undertaking of the sort was on this wise: A box just fitted to our deepest window-sill was found large enough to hold four roses, leaving room for the branches to grow during summer. The varieties chosen were Clothilde Soupert, Perle des Jardins, Hermosa and Queen's Scarlet. The plants were nearly a foot high and well branched. We ordered them of a florist in early April and planted them as soon as they came. In the bottom of the box was a layer of charcoal for drainage; the soil above it was loam, sand and well decayed fertilizer thoroughly mixed. Through the summer we kept the soil as light and soft about the roots as the upper mat of them would allow, watered them thoroughly when the earth seemed dry, kept all buds picked off, all straggling or too robust branches cut back, and the box where the sun would not strike it at mid-day. When frosts came the box was placed in its window and the buds allowed to develop. When they began to fade we cut them, and when all the buds on a branch had opened we cut back the branch to throw its strength into new shoots. For a little time insects were troublesome and we sprinkled tobacco dust upon the surface of the soil. Later we set a few plants of Kenilworth ivy along the sides of the box and they draped it with green. All that winter we could cut a nice little bouquet of roses almost any day.

L. GREENLEE.

North Carolina.

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THE people of the United States consumed more than 4,000,000 bunches of bananas from the Island of Jamaica alone.

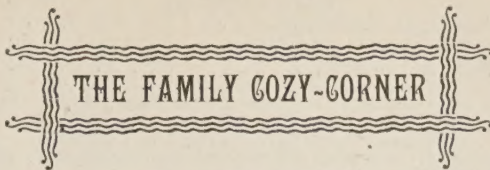
**

MONEY-EARNING WOMEN.

Two young women, near Detroit, were left with hardly a dollar of income. After long thought they announced that they would open a dyehouse. They used Diamond Dyes entirely, on account of the plain directions on the package and their reliable colors. They had a large trade, especially in dyeing black, and now they employ several hands and make a good living.

How to dress on \$40 a year. The Boston *Globe* has published many lively letters, discussing the possibility of a woman's dressing on \$40 a year. One bright woman hung out her flag by saying, "Wear your clothes until they are worn out, but don't look shabby,—dye them with Diamond Dyes and make them over, and see how, while the expense is reduced, you will be as well-dressed as your neighbors."

Useful book free. Those who want to know how to make their old clothes look like new, will find many hints and helps in "Successful Home Dyeing." This 32-page book tells how faded and dingy dresses, suits, coats, ribbons, feathers, etc., are easily dyed any desired color with Diamond Dyes. Sent free by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.



THE FAMILY COZY-CORNER

A Paper of Pansy Seed.

I want to thank you for a paper of pansy seeds sent me last year, it was my first trial. From twenty odd plants I picked for the sick. Sunday school, my neighbors, and myself, over 1,600 blossoms, so many different varieties and so large that every-body who saw them admired them, and to me it was a great pleasure to give them away, as I have been a shut-in for eight years. My seed came all right; please accept thanks.

MRS. M. C.

Pontocous, Ill.

++

Cooking Cucumbers.

In the *MAGAZINE* for March it was asked if any one knew whether cucumbers could be cooked like summer squash. I never tested just this, but my mother used to prepare them in this way:—The cucumbers were pared and sliced lengthwise, then put to stew in a little water. While they boiled she would be toasting bread; this laid in a dish had the cucumbers, water and all, poured over it. A little milk or melted butter or both was added, if I remember, and it was good. The flavor of the cucumbers would not be changed by mashing them like squash, so I do not hesitate to assure you that cooking cucumbers is good practice.

E. S. G.

++

Saving the Plum Tree.

We had a choice plum tree that had become badly infested with the black-knot and tried to save it by trimming the knotty branches off and burning them, but on gathering up the branches, we found that on one side of the body of the tree was a large knot that we had entirely overlooked and that it went deep into the heart of the tree. Must we cut the tree after all our work? We would try an experiment. Taking a sharp knife we shaved off as much as we could of the knot, then mixing some good home-made soft soap, made of home-leached lye with good strong wood ashes, into a stiff mortar, filled the cavity with this. The tree lived and thrived and has given us many a good crop of plums since that severe treatment.

E. W. P.

++

Branching Aster.

Two years ago this spring I bought a package of the White Branching asters and I raised some flowers that I thought then were beautiful. One blossom was more perfect than the rest and I saved that for seed. Last year an accident befell my young aster plants, so I had only a few of the new branching left. Those I put in my white bed and when they blossomed I stood amazed at their beauty. They were immense in size and perfectly double and of such a delicate texture! The half open blossoms have a yellow tint in the center reminding one of a pond lily but, as the blossom matures, the yellow tint disappears and the flower becomes the purest white and so fluffy, like no other aster with which I am acquainted. My white asters were the admiration of the neighborhood. I gave a few plants to an old lady who was delighted with them, and thought her flowers were larger than mine. This year I shall try some pink ones and hope to succeed as well with them. I saved my best flower for seed last year. It was simply perfection in every way. I had a great variety of asters last year and had them in bloom from the middle of July till October.

MRS. S. J. F.

++

Cooking Cucumbers—Three Methods.

In the March issue of the *MAGAZINE*, I note a query about "cooking cucumbers." Replying, would say, I have cooked cucumbers in that way for years, and they are truly delicate in flavor and superior to squash cooked in the same manner. An English friend gave me the following receipt:

"Take large green cucumbers, peel, slice and lay in salt water five minutes. Drain, put in saucepan over the fire, first adding enough water to cover them. Boil until tender. Drain off water again. Pour milk enough to make a sauce over them, a little

butter, salt and pepper. Let come to a boil again and serve hot." This also may be served poured over hot toast and is delicious.

Another way to cook them is to roll sliced cucumbers in dry corn meal or a prepared batter and fry in hot lard, salting and peppering. When cooked thus it tastes similar to egg plant and is very fine.

When I was quite small, I remember reading a book called "Three Little Spades" which was my first introduction to Vick and his honest seeds. I have lost the book and do not remember the author, but it was an exceedingly clever book for children.

With all good wishes for the success of your *MAGAZINE* and the continued prosperity of your reliable firm, I am

MRS. F. G. S.

New London, Conn.

++

Sweet Peas.

I had of you last year sweet peas, which was my first attempt at growing them. I took all possible pains in the planting and culture. I had a twenty-foot length trench dug, and to the depth of a foot, filled half full with a mixture of well rotted manure and hard wood ashes. Filled in on top some six inches of ordinary soil, planted peas about four or five inches deep. They came up nicely and grew most desirably until they came to show signs for blossoms. Every morning my first visit to the garden was made to the sweet peas, for I was exceedingly anxious to have them a success,—when, lo, and behold, I discovered the disease and blight at the base of the stem,—as Mr. Hutchins refers to in your *MAGAZINE* of January, 1897. I then supposed they would be an entire failure as to blossoms, but notwithstanding they were so badly afflicted I was happily surprised at the great number of flowers that matured. I picked a bouquet almost every morning for weeks. A word for the seed sent from your house: I will safely venture to assert that a handsomer variety could not be produced than my vines put forth. I had every shade and color of the rainbow. I think I can truthfully claim that there were no two alike on the entire vines; there were shaded blossoms and striped ones,

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in the greatest possible variety, and some most beautiful and very large ones. I had a goodly number of the double Bride of Niagara.

I read with the greatest care Mr. Hutchin's remarks and opinions of the subject above and I must say that I think he is right, that they must be more naturally and carelessly sown, without so much preparation.

MRS. C. MCK.

Waterford, N. Y.

Cannas and Freesias.

I would like to ask information in regard to keeping cannas over winter. Is it advisable or is it necessary to get new ones every year? I have never been successful and I have tried many ways, both in cellar and elsewhere, in earth and out. I would also like to inquire whether freesia bulbs are any account after blooming one season.

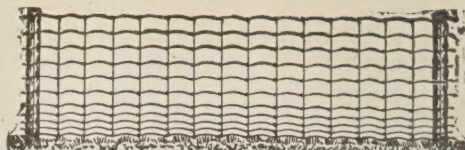
M. H. M.

Cannas when taken up in the fall can be laid for a few days in a cool shady place where they will slightly dry; they can be placed in boxes of dry sand, and set in a dry, warm cellar where they will keep until spring. Of course the tops are to be cut off. If the cellar is not dry and warm they will be apt to decay. A moderately warm place in the house should be selected if the cellar is not suitable.

Freesia bulbs can be left dry in the pots where they have grown and the strongest of them will be suitable for the next season's bloom. The pots containing the bulbs should be set away in a dry place. Bring out and repot the bulbs early in September.

A South Carolina planter is experimenting with tea, and has forty acres of land under cultivation.

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